

Message Text

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TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN, UN

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC - THE HALF-WAY MARK IN GENEVA

1. AFTER TWO WEEKS IN GENEVA, THE PACE OF THE ECOSOC SESSION IS ACCELERATING MEASURABLY. WE ARE GETTING INTO THE HEART OF SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT ISSUES. FIRST AND FOREMOST REMAINS THE US PROPOSAL ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS WHICH SHOULD BE INTRODUCED FORMALLY SOMETIME THE WEEK OF JULY 26. MEANWHILE, THIS SUBJECT HAS REMAINED THE FOCUS OF THE DELEGATION'S EFFORTS BEHIND THE SCENES AS WE HAVE REPORTED IN DETAIL. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S QUICK AND EXTENSIVE EFFORTS IN CAPITALS. WHILE THERE ARE SIGNS OF LESSENERD OPPOSITION BY SEVERAL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, THE SITUATION REMAINS DIFFICULT AND UNCERTAIN. WE SHALL SOON FACE A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT TACTICAL AND NEGOTIATING ISSUES INCLUDING OUR WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE ON SPECIFIC LANGUAGE FORMULATIONS.

2. THE G-77 OMNIBUS RESOLUTION IN THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC

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COMMITTEE HAS FINALLY SURFACED. THIS COVERS FOLLOW-UP

TO THE 6TH AND 7TH SPECIAL SESSIONS, REACTIONS TO UNCTAD IV AND CIEC, AND THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPEMNT STRATEGY PLUS SEVERAL OTHER MATTERS. WHILE MORE GENERAL THAN EXPECTED, IT STILL INVOLVES CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY ON SPECIFICS AND OVERALL TONE. INITIAL CONTACTS WITH OTHER WESTERN DELEGATIONS SHOW THAT THEY, TOO, ARE CONCERNED. NEGOTIATION ON THIS RESOLUTION IS APT TO REQUIRE MUCH EFFORT BETWEEN NOW AND THE END OF THE SESSION.

3. OTHER MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDE AN UNEXPECTED EGYPTIAN DRAFT AIMED AT GIVING THE PLO INCREASED STATUS -- AT LEAST DE FACTO -- WITH UNDP AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND CIRCULATION OF SEVERAL TRICKY RESOLUTUIONS ON REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. AN ANTICIPATED MEXICAN RESOLUTION ON CERDS WILL DOUBTLESS ALSO PRESENT PROBLEMS.

4. AS REPORTED IN INDIVIDUAL MESSAGES, SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS. THESE INCLUDE ONE COVERING "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON COLONIAL PEOPLES" WHICH WENT SOMEWHAT MORE EASILY THAN EXPECTED AND ONE ON THE UN ORGANIZATIONAL SET-UP ON NARCOTICS TO WHICH WE HAD ATTACHED SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. A SHORT SPAT WITH THE MEXICANS ON PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY WAS RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY, PERMITTING CONSENSUS ON A RESOLUTION ON NATURAL RESOURCES.

5. THE INFORMAL EXERCISE ON RESTRUCTURING BEING HELD IN PARALLEL WITH THE ECOSOC SESSION, GOT OFF TO A CREAKY START, AND WHERE IT GOES FROM HERE IS MOST UNCERTAIN. THE US AND EC-9 CAME PREPARED WITH DETAILED POSITIONS. (WE ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF IO'S EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD.) THE G-77 HAD OBVIOUSLY UNDERTAKEN NO SERIOUS PREPARATIONS AND, INDEED, SHOWED SIGNS OF INTERNAL DISSENSION.

6. SUMMING UP, THE GOOD ATMOSPHERE THAT CARRIED OVER FROM THE ABIDJAN MEETING IS STILL INTACT, BUT THE REAL TESTING TIME ON OUR MAJOR SUBJECTS IS JUST BEGINNING. HOW THE BALANCE OF THE SESSION WILL TURN OUT FROM THE US STANDPOINT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.ABRAMS
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